

The Humanitarian

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82nd conducts waterborne searches

By Spc. Joshua M. Risner
40th Public Affairs Detachment

NEW ORLEANS – “Rescue team! Is there anybody in there?”

Preceded by loud knocking on rooftops, these are some of the only sounds coming from the flooded areas of New Orleans.

Soldiers of Company C, 307th Engineer Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division are working day in and day out to recover flood victims who might still be stranded in their homes.

They have been working up and down the streets of New Orleans, now more reminiscent of canals, for the past four days.

“You see all this chaos and you wonder how somebody could live through half of this,” said Pvt. Don VanCamp, Co. C, 307th Eng. Bn.

So far, they haven’t found anyone, but that hasn’t stopped them from continuing their mission.

“It’s really frustrating,” said 2nd Lt. Chris Talbott, 2nd Platoon leader, Co. C, 307th Eng. Bn. “We haven’t found anybody alive, but we keep driving on.”

The battalion works out of inflatable Zodiac boats and canvasses the houses one by one, street by street. They have been working off and on with firemen,



Soldiers from Company C, 307th Engineer Battalion, search the flooded neighborhoods of New Orleans for stranded survivors, whether they be human or animal. (Photo by Spc. Joshua M. Risner, 40th PAD)

police and security forces, working in sectors established for search operations.

Those comrades in arms found the only survivor that the 307th has encountered thus far. They just didn’t happen to be in the boat with the firemen that day.

“There was an 84-year-old woman found right near our sector,” Talbott said. “The house she was in had already been marked ... I guess whoever it was that went through first didn’t hear her inside

when they called out.”

Aside from human victims, the 307th has also been on the search for pets stranded in the deluge. That mission has produced some satisfying results.

“We pulled one dog out the first day, two yesterday and two today so far,” Talbott said. “We found one dog sitting on a piece of plywood. He was skinny ... looked like he’d last another couple of days.

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New Orleans Airport open for business

By Spc. Thomas Day
40th Public Affairs Detachment

NEW ORLEANS, La. – The Louis Armstrong International Airport recently reopened for limited commercial traffic, the airport’s management team confirmed.

The new flight schedule will initially be a fraction of the roughly 175 flights a day that landed at Louis Armstrong International Airport before the hurricane, with any future increase in flights dependent on “how the rest of the city goes,” said Michelle Duffourc, airport public relations director.

“A lot of our traffic is from tourism. Obviously most of that is gone, for now.”

The exact number of flights landing on Tuesday is yet to be determined, Duffourc said.

Louis Armstrong International Airport has scantily resembled

its pre-Katrina self the last two weeks. Gone are the commercial pilots, baggage handlers and flight attendants — the airport has instead served as an operating center for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, as well as housing American troops and displaced Americans evacuated from New Orleans.

FEMA and U.S. troops will continue to use the airport as a staging base, with a non-intrusive presence for commercial travelers. The airport will be “segregated,” according to Duffourc, with FEMA and U.S. military personnel partitioned in one end of the airport and commercial airlines working in the other.

First signs of normality came on September 11, when the first cargo flights began landing at the airport since Hurricane Katrina.

With the airport gradually returning to its standard operations, troops working inside the airport have increasingly found their jobs taken over by their New Orleans counterparts.

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As search and rescue missions end, "All American" division refocuses Katrina efforts

By Spc. Thomas Day
40th Public Affairs Detachment

NEW ORLEANS—The 82nd Airborne Division, a division more commonly associated with leaping into battle from a C-130 cargo plane, has turned a new page in its history the past two weeks.

"Think of yourself as a huge neighborhood watch," 82nd Airborne commander Maj. Gen. William Caldwell tells his staff officers, commanders and senior non-commissioned officers.

They arrived at New Orleans on Sept. 3, bivouacking at the Louis Armstrong International Airport. Their mission: save lives and provide a supporting presence for the overstretched New Orleans police and fire departments.

Amidst national headlines reading "The Battle for New Orleans," the 82nd Airborne's arrival into New Orleans came with about as much ballyhoo as their arrival into Normandy in 1944.

"Once federal troops got established, all of that (rioting) stopped," commented Staff Sgt. Robert Schultz, an infantryman with the division's 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment. "Either they stayed in their homes or evacuated the city."

Nearly two weeks later, with an influx of additional supporting agencies from all over the country and the end of search and rescue missions, Schultz and the rest of the 82nd has changed gears. The

"All American" division, as they call themselves, is now tasked with maintaining order and rebuilding public services that were left broken but sustainable after Hurricane Katrina.

For the 82nd troops, that means lending a hand wherever and whenever they can.

Each morning, at the 82nd's "Battle Update Brief," Caldwell is presented a matrix identifying the division's top concerns and their current status. Termed "enabling operations" by First Army

services that can help support the people of New Orleans."

Nobody has put away their weapons — security remains a concern.

"When the people come back in, the local public services are going to be overwhelmed. Our presence just may provide reassurances to them that the federal government is still very much concerned about their welfare," Caldwell said.

The gameplan, according to the 82nd commander, is to communi-

Blanco that no Soldier carry a loaded weapon on the streets of New Orleans.

The two-star general calmly but rigidly corrected the two Soldiers. "That's not coming from me, guys. That's coming from the governor of Louisiana."

In New Orleans, Caldwell and his Soldiers deal with an extra layer of supervision.

While federal law prohibits Title 10 troops — those servicemembers who fall under a federal chain of command, as opposed to the state controlled National Guardsmen — from apprehending a civilian they catch committing a criminal act, the 82nd has broken through the red tape. Each squad-sized patrol (about eight to 10 soldiers) from the 82nd includes an embedded Guardsman. "They," Caldwell explains, "can detain and arrest."

Caldwell has also established a system where patrols can alert 82nd liaisons with the New Orleans police if necessary. "We can identify things and get law enforcement to those locations," he said.

Title 10 troops are also prohibited from touching a deceased American if they encounter one while on patrol. "Our only mission," Schultz said of recent patrols, "was to verify the positions and have the Remains Recovery Teams get the remains."



Task Force All American Commander, Maj. Gen. William Caldwell, stands behind the Mayor of New Orleans, Ray Nagin, during a press conference. Recent days and events have shown that "the people of New Orleans very much want to get back to normalcy." (Photo by Spc. Thomas Day, 40th PAD)

Commander Lt. Gen. Russel Honoré, the chart monitors where the city stands on fire and police department capabilities, damaged schools and hospitals, and the functionality of the local government.

"(The people of New Orleans) very much want to get back to normalcy," Caldwell said. "We're here to help jumpstart public

cate with local agencies and balance the use of force with the necessity of restraint.

During a tour of the city Tuesday, Caldwell had his driver slam the breaks in front of the New Orleans Convention Center. There, two National Guardsmen were standing guard with loaded M-16s — a violation of a directive sent from Louisiana Gov. Kathleen

The Humanitarian

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Aerial mosquito spray not a health risk to Soldiers

Joint Task Force All-American Public Affairs Office

In support of Joint Task Force-Katrina, two Air Force Reserve C-130Hs from the 757th Airlift Squadron of the 910th Airlift Wing at Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Vienna, Ohio, will be conducting aerial spray missions over New Orleans and possibly outlying areas in Louisiana and Alabama to reduce the mosquito and filth fly population. They will conduct the mission for approximately six weeks. They are scheduled to begin spraying Sept. 11.

Q. What time of the day will you be spraying?

A. Approximately an hour before dusk. Evening time is considered the optimum time for spray applications because mosquitoes are most active.

Q. At what altitude does the airplane spray from?

A. Spraying occurs at about 150 – 200 feet above ground level. This altitude may need to be adjusted to maneuver over New Orleans' buildings.

Q. Who is leading the spraying operations?

A. Sprayings are at the request of FEMA. The Joint Functional Air Component Commander, Tyndall AFB, maintains lead on all aspects of airspace control and deconfliction.

Q. How much area is covered by each sortie?

A. Both C-130Hs will spray approximately 60,000 acres per day.

Q. What if any special equipment is being used on the aircraft?

A. The C-130H is equipped with the Modular Aerial Spray System (MASS)

Q. What chemical will you be using?

A. Dibrom
"Naled," is the active ingredient in Dibrome. (Just as "Motrin" is the trade name for some ibuprofen).

Q. How is the chemical packaged?

A. The chemical is packaged in 30 gallon drums and poured into 450 gallon onboard tanks (chemical is NOT diluted with water)

Q. What is the application rate?

A. Application rate for flies is 1 oz/acre. Application rate for mosquitoes is 1/2 oz/acre. It is a very fine mist.

Q. What are the safety concerns to humans and animals if they are sprayed?

A. The low quantity used per acre will not pose a health hazard to humans or animals.

The mist will not "rain" down on people. But the amount is enough to kill mosquitoes and filth flies.

Q. What, if any, protective measures should people on the ground take?

A. People can stay indoors to be completely free from interaction with any chemicals or wear long sleeves and pants, but the amount of chemical in the air should not affect people or animals other than possible irritation of the eyes.

Every measure to insure public safety during these missions is being taken by both the aircrews and the health officials involved in the program. The safety of our military personnel and fellow Americans is one of our highest concerns.

The aircrews are specially trained and highly qualified to conduct the low-flying missions.

The elimination of disease-carrying insects is a vital part of ensuring public health and safety in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. If the situation is not controlled, the probability that people will contract diseases, either in single incidents or in widespread outbreaks, increases greatly.

This is a total team effort – the resources of the federal government including the Department of Defense have been mobilized to help FEMA conduct federal efforts.

The U.S. military is supporting FEMA and the CDC in conducting these aerial spray missions. We are supporting their efforts to ensure the safety of the personnel in the affected regions.



A Soldier from Company C, 307th Engineer Battalion, searches the flooded neighborhoods of New Orleans for stranded survivors, whether they be human or animal. (Photo by Spc. Joshua M. Risner, 40th PAD)

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Another task which has become a voluntary part of the mission has been ferrying civilians out to survey the damage done to their homes.

The Soldiers are visibly tired, but they push on nonetheless. "We're in bed around nine and we get up about 5 a.m.," Talbott said of his Soldiers. "That's eight hours of sleep, but you can still see the exhaustion on their faces."

For the Soldiers of the 307th, the work involved is not so much physically

exhausting as it is a mentally challenging task, VanCamp said.

Though no human survivors have been found yet, the Soldiers aren't giving up hope. "You know there's somebody out there still alive," VanCamp said.

Despite frustrations, the Soldiers are happy to be doing their part. "It's a big difference watching this stuff on T.V. ... you feel helpless," Talbott said. "When you get on the ground down here, you feel like you're helping."

82nd evacuates Convention Center

By Pvt. 1st Class Jacqueline M. Hawe
82nd Division Public Affairs Office

NEW ORLEANS — As soon as a chair is open, it is occupied again by another displaced American rescued by one of the many helping hands here, many of those hands come from the Soldiers and airmen of America's armed forces.

The Convention Center, located downtown, is the main collection point for evacuees to go to, said 1st Lt. Derek Parker, a Physician Assistant for 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division. Paratroopers from 2nd Bn., 505th PIR are patrolling the center and also directing the evacuees to where they need to go, he said.

"With so many different agencies working to help (displaced Americans) it makes it easier to have one key location for the evacuees to link up with rescuers to get them to safety," Parker explained.

"Ninety-five percent of the people we see everyday are just (displaced Americans)," said Parker. "The other five percent are in need of medical care."

If someone is in need of medical care the convention center offers a handful of professionals, said Parker.

Medical professionals helping support hurricane relief operations come from all over the country, said Parker. There are medical students, nurses, and medics from all branches of the service.

"I am very grateful to all the help we have received in this mission, especially to the

civilian volunteers.

"The 82nd has been like a god send," said Melissa Bowers, a civilian volunteer from Harrison Medical Center in Bremerton, Wash. The National Guard has also been a huge help, she said.

Once the displaced Americans are screened for medical issues they are sent to a white tent where they will wait for transportation to take them to the New Orleans

Amy Hannah, the Task Force All American Public Affairs Officer.

"Now looking around the convention center you could see a variety of animals, from lizards to cats; birds to dogs," said Hannah.

With numbers of agencies working together, the displaced Americans are able to get to the convention center, receive medical attention, and finally be transported to the



Paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division and many other agencies help displaced Americans at the downtown New Orleans convention center. (Photo by Pvt. 1st Class Jacqueline M. Hawe, 82nd Airborne Division PAO)

International Airport, said Staff Sgt. Juan Almonte, a combat medic with 2nd Bn., 505th PIR.

From the airport the displaced Americans are sent to safety, said Parker. Most people were afraid to leave because they didn't want to leave their pets behind, said Maj.

New Orleans International Airport where they will be flown to safety.

"I am extremely pleased with how this effort has come together," said Task Force All American Commanding General, Maj. Gen. William B. Caldwell, IV.

"airport" continued from page 1

Maj. Leigh Holt, a registered nurse with the 375th Medical Group from Scott Air Force Base in Illinois, has been treating patients in a temporary Combat Support Hospital assembled at gate "D2."

Upon arriving in New Orleans, Holt

found herself treating the patients that the local hospitals could not. More than 23,000 evacuees were treated by the U.S. Army and Air Force medical staff operating in the airport in a three-day period immediately after Hurricane Katrina.

The local hospitals are now back in commission, and Holt is having trouble finding work.

"Most of the (patients) are going other places," Holt said. "You can see how busy we are," she added, holding an open book in her hand.

Holt expects to be pulled out of the airport within the next week. She has been living in a cot near a baggage claim area underneath an electric sign that still reads, "Thank you for flying Delta Airlines."

Army medics team with volunteers to treat Katrina victims

By Spc. Chris Jones
40th Public Affairs Detachment

NEW ORLEANS – Medics from the 28th Combat Support Hospital and the 82nd Airborne Division teamed up with local volunteers to treat Hurricane Katrina victims at a high school in New Orleans this week.

Landry High School is the site of the new makeshift clinic, which provides treatment, shots and medical prescriptions to the residents of the Algiers region of New Orleans. Algiers has no hospital, according to Dr. Larry Amacker, a volunteer at the clinic.

Residents can also pick up supplies, such as water, clothing and general hygiene items.

Amacker, who has spent his entire life in New Orleans, including high school at Landry, said the people of New Orleans have maintained a tough attitude after Katrina.

“These people that you see here today, they’re resilient,” Amacker said. “Nobody here is giving up.”

The senior medical director for Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi, Amacker said the military’s presence has given the city’s residents a sense of control over the situation.

“Having the military here makes people feel like there is a way to fix the city up, and if everyone works together, it will happen,” he said.

The Medical Care Assistance Site officially opened Tuesday, but only 58 people showed up throughout the day. By Wednesday, “word of mouth spread around, and people started really coming in,” said Spc. Andrew Carson, a 28th CSH medic.

By just 10 a.m. Wednesday, 60 people had already checked in to Landry. By the end of the day, more than 200 residents visited the MCAS.



An 82nd Airborne Division medic gives a tetanus shot to a New Orleans resident at Landry High School in New Orleans Wednesday morning. The high school is operating as a clinic, run by the 82nd and local volunteers. (Photos by Spc. Chris Jones, 40th PAD)

“We’re just doing all we can to help, really,” said Carson. “As long as we’re helping the general welfare of the community, we feel good about what we’re doing here.”

Wallace Green, a New Orleans resident who fled the city with his wife before the hurricane, came in to treat a severe cut on his left arm that he received when he attempted to break back into his home through a small window because the flood waters were too high to go any other way. Green felt he needed to return to the city so he could get back to work on the Abigale Shipyard to provide for his wife.

John Desadir, a medical school student from California said Green’s cut would have likely become infected if he hadn’t received treatment for it.

Landry has a 24-hour military presence, in case of emergencies. “Having the assets brought to us by the military is just awesome,” said Amacker. “Katrina was devastating for the community and the city, but these people are starting to see some hope. The military gives them a lot of that hope.”



Above: John Desadir, a medical school student, gives stitches to Wallace Green under the supervision of an 82nd Airborne Division physician, at Landry High School in New Orleans Wednesday morning. The high school has become a makeshift medical clinic, operated by the 82nd and local volunteers, to help treat Hurricane Katrina victims. Right: Capt. Gina Jackson, attached to the 82nd Airborne Division for Hurricane Katrina, looks over a Blues Clues coloring book with Donald Moore III, at Landry High School in New Orleans Wednesday morning. The high school is being used as a makeshift clinic in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.



Be safe during recovery effort

First Army Safety Office Joint Task Force Katrina

1. Troops supporting JTF Katrina will be working long hours under hot and harsh conditions.

It is imperative that leaders and troops be aware of the importance of adequate sleep. Leaders should be cognizant of indicators that will alert them to their troop's status.

2. Sleep loss/fatigue/stress can have an adverse effect on our troop's ability to perform their mission safely in support of JTF Katrina.

The average person sleeps six hours per night. Sleep experts recommend eight hours.

Considering the environment, the soldiers are not necessarily getting the sleep they need. This is compounded by the fact that they are not sleeping in their normal environment and may be distracted by issues at home.

3. Indicators of sleep loss are:

- * Lack of patience; Irritability
- * Depression
- * Physical appearance
- * Loss of Hand grip strength
- * Walking into obstacles
- * Talk more
- * Poor judgment
- * Comprehen-

sion is slower

4. Ensure your troops are taken care of during all phases of the mission.

Leaders, who traditionally get very little sleep, should make certain they are getting adequate sleep/rest in order to make sound decisions.

5. Crew Rest and Safe Driving. Drivers should not drive more than 10 continuous hours IAW AR 385-55, Prevention of Motor Vehicle Accidents.

Unit commanders need to develop, approve, and enforce crew rest and assistant driver scheduling using the guidance in AR 385-55.

An assistant driver will be assigned to a vehicle when more than 10 hours are needed to complete operations.

6. Drivers will:

- * Conduct PMCS daily.
- * Inspect their vehicles and ensure cargo is secure during rest stops.
- * Not use head-phones or earphones while driving AMV.
- * Not consume intoxicating beverages before scheduled duty or during normal duty hours.
- * Ensure AMV have the proper fire extinguisher (ABC/Multi-purpose).
- * Ensure that ground guides are used at all times.
- * Not exceed the posted speed limit even if police escorts are provided.
- * Adjust speeds based on risk assessments for vehicles, roads, and environmental conditions.

* Enforce the use of seat belts by all passengers.

"Be Safe!" and remember...Safety is a force multiplier!!! First U.S. Army Safety can be reached at 404-469-7608.



A lone American flag survived the wind and tide of Hurricane Katrina, on the coastal city of Gulfport, Miss. Troops are reminded to be safe while they conduct humanitarian missions in the area affected by the storm. (Photo by Spc. Chris Jones, 40th PAD)